THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) According to the information received from the National Human Rights Commission, 191 deaths took place in police custody in the country during the year 1997. The number of deaths in police custody during the current year (from January, 1998 to May, 1998) was 67.

2. "Police" is a State subject as per the Constitution of India. The investigation of cases and interrogation of suspects involved therein is primarily done by the State Police agencies. It is essentially the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure that their police personnel do not resort to human rights violations during interrogation. The Union Government has been issuing guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time, to the effect that their police personnel should conduct themselves in a humane manner and that cases of police excesses should be taken serious note of and dealt with promptly and firmly. Human rights as a subject has also been included in the training curricula of police personnel.

Converting INS Vikrant into a Maritime Museum

*306. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maha rashtra has sent a proposal to the Central Government to convert INS Vikrant into a maritime museum; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The proposal as submitted by Gov-ernment of Maharashtra is estimated to cost Rs. 76 crores. The proposal comprises of two main parts, condonation of Rs. 18 Crores being scrap value of the ship by Government of India, and approval of the Mumbai Port Trust for locational clearance for grouting the ship. Both these issues are under active consideration of Government of India.

Guidelines for freedom fighters' pension

*307. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question 103 alongwith the sup-plementaries in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd June, 1998, and state:

(a) the guidelines for sanction of freedom fighters pension before and after 31st March, 1982; and

(b) how many applications are pending from Tamil Nadu and the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) *Gudelines for sanction of freedom fighers' pension before and after 31st March, 1982:*

I. *Before 31.3.1982 i.e. under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980.*

The Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 provides for grant of pension to living freedom fighters, their families if they (Freedom Fighters) are no more alive and to the families of martyrs. The eligibility conditions for grant of Samman Pension under this Scheme are as under:—

(a) A person who has suffered a minimum imprisonment of six months in the mainland jails before Independence. However, ex-INA or ex-Military personnel will be eligible for pension if the im-prisonmenfdetention suffered by them was outside India.

(b) A person who remained underground fox six months or more provided he was (i) a proclaimed offender; or (ii) one on whom an award for arrestliead was announced; or (iii) one whose detention order was issued but not served.